Claims:

1. A method of operating a computing device which enables the communication of information between the device and a further computing device, each having a communications capability, the method comprising causing the device to request information regarding contact entries in a contact store accessible by the further device, comparing contact entries of a first contact store accessible by the device with contact entries made available to the device from the contact store accessible by the further device, and notifying at least one of the devices of contacts determined to be common to the first and further contact stores.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the contact store of the device and/or the contact store of the further device is/are arranged as a plurality of overlapping or exclusive groups of contact entries.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein contact entries in the contact store of the device and/or the contact store of the further device are selectively excluded from the comparison of contact entries.

4. A method according to claim 3, when appendant to claim 2, wherein at least one of the groups is selectively excluded from the comparison of contact entries.

5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the contact entries are selected to comprise telephone numbers.

6. A method according to claim 5 wherein selected characters are removed from the telephone numbers.

7. A method according to claim 5 or 6 wherein the telephone numbers are arranged to comprise a country or area code.

8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the contact entries comprise digests of part or all of contacts in the contact stores accessible by the device and the further device.

9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the digests include a hash key known to the device and the further device.

10. A method according to claim 9 wherein one of the computing devices is arranged to generate the hash key and communicate it to the other device.

11. A method according to claim 9 wherein a network server is arranged to generate the hash key and communicate it to the devices.

12. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the comparison of contact entries is undertaken by one of the computing devices using data communicated to it by the other.

13. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 12 wherein the comparison of contact entries is undertaken by a network server.

14. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the contacts store accessible by the device and the contacts store accessible by the further device are held respectively on the device and the further device.

15. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein the contacts store accessible by the device and the contacts store accessible by the further device are held by a third party

16. A method according to claim 15, when appendant to claim 13, wherein the third party comprises the network server.

17. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein communication between the device and further device occurs over a wireless link.

18. A method according to claim 16 wherein the wireless link comprises any one or more of a cellular phone network, infrared, Bluetooth or a 802.11 WiFi network.

19. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein communication between the device and the further device occurs over a wired link.

20. A method according to claim 18 wherein the wired link comprises any one or more of Ethernet, Cable, Telephone, and Serial.

21. A computing device arranged to operate in accordance with a method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 20.

22. A computing device according to claim 21 comprising a mobile phone.

23. Computer software arranged to cause a computing device as claimed in claim 21 or 22 to operate in accordance with a method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 20.